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Right of way through the Umatilla Reservation

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RIGHT OF WAY THROUGH THE UMATILLA RESERVATION.

JULY 20, 1892.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LYNCH, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 8662.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 8662) granting the Blue Mountain Irrigation and Improvement Company right of way for reservoir and canal through the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon, respectfully report the same back and recommend its passage.

The bill granting to that irrigation company the right to construct a dam and a canal for irrigation purposes, the grant is given upon the express condition that the consent of the Indians, who it appears hold their lands in severalty, be obtained in a manner directed by the Secretary of the Interior, and after such consent shall have been granted, the same shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and any attempt to compel the Indians to grant this right under the bill the company must deal with the Indians themselves personally, in the same manner as citizens. Its contracts or agreements with the Indians must be approved by the Interior Department.

The bill appears to be eminently fair in all its provisions, and the rights of the Indians are particularly and carefully guarded in all respects.

The bill has the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and if the purposes be carried out it will no doubt be of great value to the lands on that reservation, which will inure chiefly to the Indians. Reference is hereby made to the report of the Senate (No. 911) on this bill for the correspondence with the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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